

A crucial test for Williams

ANDY Williams faces a crucial test in his first season as Wycombe manager when his side travel to meet improving Sutton United at Gander Green Lane tomorrow (Saturday).

After two successive home defeats in the Berger Isthmian League, Wycombe need a mental boost and it's up to Mr Williams to provide the inspiration if his side is to emerge from the doldrums.

Not only did Wycombe lose those two games to Walthamstow and Carshalton, but they also played very poorly. More than anything, their play lacked spirit — something that must return if they are to offer any sort of challenge.

Blues once again will be without John Maskell, whose

trapped nerve injury is still causing problems, but they hope to call back Paul Birdseye after a rib injury.

This means that Steve Hardwick is free to go back to his role as a central defender, But I would prefer to see him move into mid-field, where Blues are having awful problems. His classy play could make all the difference.

CONFIDENCE

This need only be a temporary measure until Wycombe regain

their confidence — for that is part of the trouble.

Sutton know how Wycombe feel, for they themselves were in a similar position at the start of the season when their new signings Terry Harris (Dagenham) and Dave Dyer (Kingstonian) were injured for long periods.

The Sutton form slumped and only when these players returned did they come back to their best. Their 5-1 victory over Staines in midweek was the proof that they will prove a difficult side to beat.

What helped United was a good FA Cup run which has brought them within one step of the first round. Wycombe, of course, are exempt until that stage because of their previous good record.

There's a distinct Wycombe look about the Sutton set-up. Two former Blues players, Larry Pritchard and Gavin Fraser are in the first team squad, another, Keith Blunt is the manager and yet another — Ian Pearson — is the youth team boss during his spare time from Millwall.

Wycombe have been drawn at home to Leatherhead in the third round of the Hitachi Cup on Tuesday, November 7.

IT'S THAT BOGEY!

Slough Youth 1, Wycombe Wanderers Youth 0

THAT old Slough bogey struck once again on Wednesday night when their Youth side did just enough to beat Wycombe Wanderers Youth in their Berger Isthmian Youth Cup match at Wexham Park.

The only goal of the match came after seven minutes when Slough forward Spellman sent a well placed header past Way following a corner.

Thereafter it was the defences who completely dominated the match. Slough's big back-line rarely looked in any danger

while good work by Philip Teed and Clive Sharpe kept the home forwards at bay.

Only once did Wycombe escape the tight marking. That came five minutes from the end when Teed found himself clear, a few yards in front of goal. He blasted his shot only to strike the bar, much to his dismay. This would have given Wycombe a deserved draw, even though Slough had enjoyed the slight edge.

WYCOMBE: C. Way, C. Sharpe, L. Austin, C. Ludlow, P. Teed, J. Jacobs, J. Robinson, B. Tyler, G. Rotherham, S. Styles, G. Pearce. Sub: J. Taylor (not used).

BERGER ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION (Up to Oct 25)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	19	12	2	5	35	18	38
Croydon	16	10	3	3	30	15	33
Leatherhead	17	9	2	6	31	16	29
Hendon	18	8	5	5	27	26	29
Dagenham	18	9	2	7	28	30	29
Wycombe	18	8	4	6	27	18	28
Walthamstow	16	8	3	5	26	17	27
Dulwich	13	7	5	1	17	7	26
Barking	14	7	4	3	36	25	25
Slough	14	7	3	4	13	10	24
Tooting	20	6	6	8	24	27	24
Hitchin	17	7	3	7	22	27	24
Woking	15	6	5	4	29	24	23
Boreham Wd	15	6	4	5	19	16	22
Oxford	16	3	3	8	19	31	18
Staines	17	4	4	9	21	31	16
Sutton	16	4	3	9	19	24	15
Hayes	17	3	6	8	19	30	15
Tilbury	16	4	3	9	22	38	15
Carshalton	16	2	8	6	19	28	14
Kingston	13	2	3	8	9	22	9
Leytonstone	13	1	2	10	8	22	5